

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS: PDIP PFOR GH
SUB: AMBASSADOR SMITH PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

REF: ACCRA 9232

1. AMBASSADOR ROBERT P. SMITH PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO CHIEF OF STATE ACHEAMPONG DEC 17. CEREMONY, A COLORFUL BLEND OF COLONIAL POMP AND GHANAIAAN TRADITION, WAS IMPRESSIVE AND WENT OFF WITHOUT HITCH.

2. IN HIS SPEECH (TEXT CABLED REF) ACHEAMPONG MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--GHANA AND USHAVE HAD PERIODS OF DIFFERENCES BUT WHAT IS MOST SIGNIFICANT IS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AWARE THAT POSITIVE FACTORS BINDING TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD OVERCOME TEMPORARY DIFFERENCES.

--GHANA IS GRATIFIED US WILL SUPPORT ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND APPRECIATES CONTRIBUTIONS US HAS ALREADY MADE.

--GOG CALLS ON RACIST SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIMES PEACEFULLY TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND THUS AVERT BLOODBATH. GHANA IS PLEASED US SHARES ITS CONCERNS AND HOPES
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ON THESE ISSUES.

3. POST-SPEECH DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND ACHEAMPONG WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED. ACHEAMPONG TOUCHED ON GHANA'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND AMBASSADOR OUTLINED PROGRAMS, SUCH AS MIDAS, TARGETED ON AGRICULTURE. GHANA IS ON A MIDDLE

COURSE, ACHEAMPONG ASSERTED, AND IS CRITICIZED BY BOTH EAST AND WEST FOR THIS REASON BUT IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ITS POSTURE. MFA COMMISSIONER FELLI MENTIONED COCOA AGREEMENT BUT SUBJECT WAS NOT PURSUED BY ACHEAMPONG.

4. DAILY GRAPHIC FRONT PAGED LARGE PHOTO OF AMBASSADOR AND ACHEAMPONG DEC 18 WITH BANNER HEADLINE, "GHANA IS GRATEFUL", WHILE LESS FRIENDLY GHANAIAIAN TIMES RAN SMALLER PICTURE ON LAST PAGE.
SMITH

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